

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Maryland Route 56, 1/2 mile east of Charlton Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Big Spring vicinity				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Washington		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Joseph W. Gehr, Sr.				
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 1				
CITY OR TOWN: Big Spring		STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Washington County Court House				
STREET AND NUMBER: West Washington Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 225/547				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Historical Trust Survey, Washington County				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust				
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis		STATE: Maryland		

7 DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> </div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>This house is located on the north side of Maryland Route 56, approximately 1/2-mile east of the Charlton Road. It is situated near the road with its facade facing south or toward the road. Immediately across Route 56 is a large stone-end bank barn belonging to the property.</p> <p>The structure is red brick with white woodwork and green shutters. It has two stories and five bays with a center door which enters into a hall. Double chimneys are located inside each gable end.</p> <p>The house is built in a style which is frequently designated as "rural Georgian." By this term is meant a house type that is based very remotely upon architecture of the early 18th century in England. There formality and symmetry are the major features of Georgian architecture. In America, building in the Georgian style was prominent in the mid to late 18th century in the coastal areas of the thirteen colonies. In the inland areas, Georgian-inspired architecture did not develop until the late 18th and early 19th centuries and examples are frequently found dating quite late in the 19th century.</p> <p>As it spread to the inland areas, particularly of Pennsylvania and Maryland, Georgian-inspired architecture became the standard farmhouse plan. The style lost much of its formal detail as it was adapted to use in sparsely settled rural areas. Basic symmetry, however, was retained. The prominent feature of this type of house is the center front door which opens into a stair hall. Two rooms are usually located on each side of the hall, each with an opening into the central passageway. The Georgian-inspired farmhouse is usually five bays in width with chimneys internally placed at each gable end.</p> <p>This dwelling is typical of the Georgian-inspired farmhouse. Its foundation is of coursed local limestone. The brick work is done in American bond with a row of header bricks occurring after seven rows of stretchers. Flat brick arches are located over each window in the two main stories of the house. A simple cornice can be seen under the 20th century metal roof.</p> <p>The door is flanked by doric colonettes. A transom and side lights with diamond panes are part of the door framing. The door area includes a modern one-bay entrance porch with plain square columns.</p> <p>A date stone reading 1852 is located near the peak of the gable at the west end of the house.</p> <p>A small, two-bay, one-story brick service wing is attached to the east end of the house.</p> <p>The house is located on a working farm and is not at the present time in danger of alteration or destruction. The house would be threatened, however, if Route 56 were to be widened.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1852 (date stone)**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is significant as a well-preserved example of central and western Maryland farmhouses which are still common throughout this area. Built in the mid-19th century, this house is particularly valuable because its exterior has received little alteration from its original appearance and it is at present in very good condition. Although the roof, windows and porch are not original, they have not changed the structure or the character of the exterior of the house.

The Georgian-inspired farmhouses of brick and stone are landmarks in Maryland, Pennsylvania and surrounding localities. They appear in areas where a Pennsylvania influence is strong, probably because Georgian architecture was firmly rooted in Pennsylvania which was settled in the 18th century when the Georgian style was dominant in England.¹ These structures should be noted as architectural examples native to a small area of the eastern United States.

Such dwellings were not designed by architects but by their builders or owners. They were constructed in a simple symmetrical plan which was easy to follow as well as pleasing to the eye. Building plans for these structures were readily available to the public in the 19th century architectural manuals. Another feature of central hall plan houses was the greater degree of privacy they afforded to the household. Rooms could be reached by way of a thoroughfare, the hall, rather than by passing through other rooms.

The ease with which these halls could be built when a readily available plan was followed, as well as the factor of greater privacy for the occupants contributed to the popularity of this style farmhouse in central and western Maryland.

¹Further information on the Pennsylvania farmhouse can be found in the following article: Alfred Lawrence Kocher, "The Early Architecture of Pennsylvania," Architectural Record, 49, 2:134-155.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **199.71 acres**

Acreage Justification:

Blank area for Acreage Justification.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	COUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Washington County Historic Sites Survey** DATE: **May, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House Annex

CITY OR TOWN: **Hagerstown** STATE: **Maryland**

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

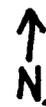
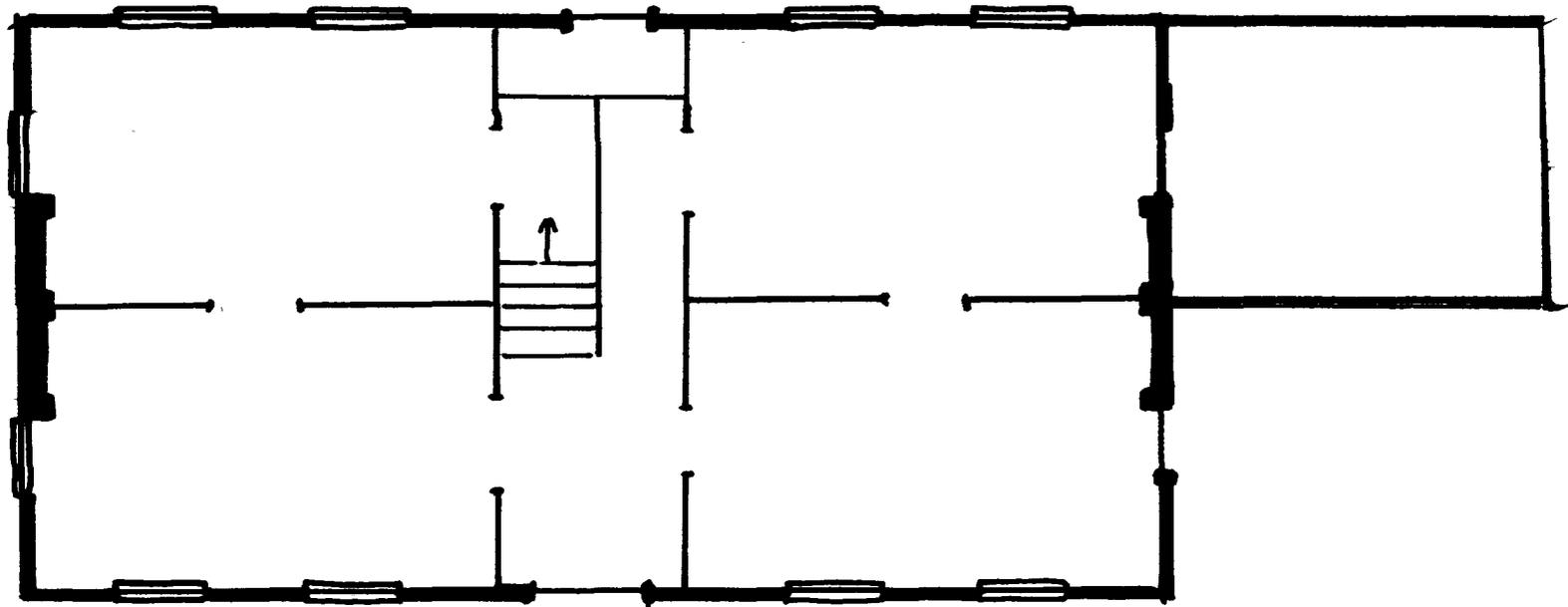
National State Local

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

APPROXIMATE FLOOR PLAN

WA-V-027





WA. II-027

S.W.